



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,583	09/12/2003	Wataru Kawata	03560.003351.	7881
5514	7590	01/10/2005	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			MACKEY, PATRICK HEWEY	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3651		

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/660,583	KAWATA, WATARU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Patrick H. Mackey	3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 091203.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 4, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the image formation apparatus". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 5, 8-11, and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cocklin et al. Cocklin discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a plurality of sheet trays (50, 52, 54); a plurality of sheet feeding means (80, 82, 84, 92, 94, 96); and a plurality of transport paths (56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66) in opposite directions; and a post-processing device (114).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4, 6, 7, 12, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida et al. (JP 2000211804 A) in view of Cocklin et al. Uchida discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a plurality of sheet trays (13, 14) and a plurality of sheet feeding means (15, 16) that feed sheets from the sheet trays to insert the sheets between two sheets transported from an image formation apparatus (1). Uchida discloses all the limitations of the claims, but it does not disclose a plurality of transport paths in opposite directions. However Cocklin discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a plurality of transport paths in opposite directions of sheet trays for the purpose of finishing a sheet in either of two directions (see col. 2, lines 5-26). It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Uchida by utilizing a plurality of transport paths in opposite directions of sheet trays, as disclosed by Cocklin, for the purpose of finishing a sheet in either of two directions.

8. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocklin in view of Toyama et al. Cocklin discloses all the limitations of the claims, but it does not disclose a primary transport path disposed between two sheet trays. However, Toyama discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a primary transport path (See Fig. 1) disposed between two sheet trays (22, 23) for the purpose of providing excellent paper inlet selectability (see col. 1, lines 60-

65). It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Cocklin by having the primary transport path disposed between two sheet trays, as disclosed by Toyama, for the purpose of providing excellent paper inlet selectability.

9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocklin et al. in view of Keller et al. Cocklin discloses all the limitations of the claims, but it does not disclose a sheet reversing means. However, Keller discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a sheet reversing means (136) for the purpose of inverting a sheet for duplex processing (see col. 6, lines 5-25). It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Cocklin by utilizing a sheet reversing means, as disclosed by Keller, for the purpose of inverting a sheet for duplex processing.

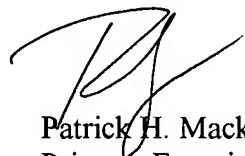
Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick H. Mackey whose telephone number is (703) 308-0630. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on (703) 308-2560. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Patrick H. Mackey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651

January 6, 2005